

Men Long For Front When They Visit Home

By HAL BOYLE AN AMERICAN AIR BASE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN, Dec. 11 (Delayed)—(AP)—Going home is something every man in uniform talks about with longing. Those who have won the coveted tick- et back, however, aren't always so happy about it once they've reached the dust of the bar. ... BOYLES home was worn off, many of them find that they have a real desire to return to the active zone. They complain that the people in the States have no true feeling of the realities of war. ... "But I don't want to stay here. They don't know there's a war on and I guess I'm out of step with the boys. It was great to see the family and friends, but give me overseas service any day."

Nazis Sack Slav Towns

LONDON—(AP)—The Yugoslav Partisan lines have given way under the crushing pressure of constantly reinforced German troops in Croatia and the advance of the Nazis are burning and sacking every village in their path, the headquarters of Marshal Josip Broz Tito announced today. ... "This was held in the headquarters of the Free Yugoslav radio, said the German breakthrough was achieved by five columns of Nazis and the tanks (most puppet army troops) in the Kozan and Banja districts in the southern part of the country. ... In the neighboring Slavonia, Tito said the Yugoslavs beat off attacks by German and Croatian units yesterday, but in one place a Nazi column between Donji Lapac and the town of Blazice, which is bordering on western Bosnia. ... Partisans operating in eastern Bosnia between Banja and Zastava killed 20 of the enemy. Near Mladetac, 40 miles east of Sarajevo, Tito's men wiped out a regiment of German Alpine troops, the communiqué said. ... The Partisans also sank two enemy ships in the Adriatic off Dubrovnik and damaged three others. In Slavonia, they stormed the town of Mali Slanak, destroyed the German garrison and captured war material, Tito reported.

WEATHER Fall and winter conditions held tonight and Friday, with low temperature tonight of 15. Today's Temperatures: 11, 15, 22.9 P. M., 27. Additional U. S. Weather Bureau data will be found on page 12.

Mighty Armada Of U. S. Heavy Bombers Blast Northwest Reich

LONDON—(AP)—A great armada of American heavy bombers escorted by squadron after squadron of fleet fighters beat through thick curtains of anti-aircraft fire over northwest Germany today to better that Nazi submergence and submarine center for the third time in a week. ... Specific targets were not announced immediately, but returning flyers said their tons of high

Churchill Suffering From Attack Of Pneumonia

Wreck Set To Hit British

Reds Launch Offensive In White Russia

LONDON—(AP)—Berlin acknowledged today that Russian forces have slowed the German counter-offensive in the Kiev sector battle area and have launched a strong offensive in White Russia. ... The acknowledgements bore out Moscow reports that Gen. Nikolai Vatutin's Ukrainian army had gone over to the offensive again and had massed the greatest artillery concentration of the war against the German armies in the Kiev bulge. ... A German broadcast said the Kiev operations "are approaching a climax," while admitting the Nazi counter attack was making less progress. ... On the White Russia front to the north, the German broadcast identified that lines were being broken on the road to Minsk—had been breached by a strong Russian attack, followed by an artillery barrage and with flanker support, but that counter attacks had restored the German positions.

Tojo Whistles In The Dark

By ASSOCIATED PRESS The mounting fear of rapidly expanding Japanese strength is the major factor contributing to desperate counter-offensives being launched by the Anglo-Americans against Japan, Premier Hideo Tojo told a general meeting of the Japanese Economic Federation in Tokyo, the German radio said today. ... Departing from his previous series of warnings to his people of slowing down the Japanese advance, Tojo said that the time has come when the United States will no longer be able to check the expansion of Japan's fighting power. ... "During on what he said was his last visit to Japan, the fighting strength and the rapidly declining resources of the Allies, Tojo said Britain and America were now confronted with an alarming dearth of supplies and materials, including tin, rubber, oil and tungsten, were suffering from a sharp decline in production of iron and steel," and were experiencing an "exhaustion of manpower."

Ford Aircraft Plant Work Interrupted By Fire

DETROIT—Production was halted in the aircraft building at the Ford Motor Co. Rouge Plant early today when the plant and its 100,000 sq. ft. of work area were hit by a fire.

Major American Action In South Pacific Imminent

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC ALLIED HEADQUARTERS (AP)—An American invasion of New Britain Island, key to Japan's hold on the entire South Pacific area, appeared imminent today following a devastating raid by Allied bombers that dumped 350 tons of explosives on Arave, one of the two good harbors on the southern coast of the island. ... This second raid, announced by Gen. Douglas MacArthur, followed bombing attacks Sunday that shattered New Britain on all sides in a pre-invasion softening-up pattern. ... The Tokyo radio claimed that the invasion force consisted of 100,000 men, 100,000 tons of supplies, and 100,000 tons of equipment. ... The invasion force consisted of 100,000 men, 100,000 tons of supplies, and 100,000 tons of equipment. ... The invasion force consisted of 100,000 men, 100,000 tons of supplies, and 100,000 tons of equipment.

Invasion Reported

PHOENIX, Ariz.—(AP)—L. D. Brewer, Phoenix radio amateur, said he heard two broadcasts from Tokyo today of a Japanese communiqué saying American forces have invaded New Britain Island and that Japanese fighting occurred on the beaches. ... "Japanese forces on New Britain Island are being held desperately on the beaches against the American invasion forces," the broadcasts said. ... The broadcasts said that in one sea engagement two "torpedo boats" were hit, one was sunk and another left in flames and no other news.

17 Allied Vessels Sunk In Bari Raid

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Seventeen United Nations merchant ships, including five American vessels, were sunk by German bombers in the Allied port at Bari, Italy, Dec. 17. Approximately 1,000 persons, among them 37 American naval men, were killed or injured. ... Secretary of War Stimson disclosed casualty details in the final of American ships of a press conference today after sources of unconfirmed authority had said the total number of vessels hit at Bari was 17, approximately 50 per cent of the total number of shipping in that harbor at the time. ... "While we have definite air superiority in Southern Italy and in the Gulf of the Mediterranean," the War Secretary said, "the German have appreciably increased their air strength in this area. Heavy fighter resistance has been encountered at times, and some heavy bomber attacks have been made on Allied ports and shipping." ... Stimson said that the Bari bombardment, spreading fire and destruction over the harbor. ... Stimson's report of the attack came during the course of his weekly review of the war.

President Roosevelt Safely Back In U. S.

WASHINGTON—(AP)—President Roosevelt safely returned to the United States, the White House announced today. ... Presidential Secretary Stephen Early informed reporters: "I think I can tell you now he has returned and is safely back in the United States. I have not been advised as to when he will reach Washington."

Say FR Forced Down On Way To Parley

LONDON—(AP)—The German news agency DNB in a dispatch purporting to come from Lisbon, Portugal, said today that President Roosevelt's plane made a forced landing in the Azores Islands while on his way to the Cairo and Tehran conferences. ... There has been no official confirmation that such a stop was made while the President was en route to Cairo. ... The agency said in a Berlin broadcast that the President had been forced down on the Azores Islands by a lightning bolt on an engine of his aircraft.

Apparently Is Now In Middle East

LONDON—(AP)—Prime Minister Churchill, who marked his 69th birthday while attending the three-power Tehran conference, is suffering from a "light" pneumonia in a "jolt lung." Deputy Prime Minister Clement Attlee told the hushed House of Commons today. ... Attlee indicated that Churchill is now somewhere in the Middle East. A bulletin issued at 10 Downing St., Churchill's official residence, said the first intimation of the Prime Minister's illness, said: "SATISFACTORY" "His general condition is as satisfactory as can be expected."

Second Illness In Less Than Year

LONDON—(AP)—An announcement from 10 Downing St., London, today said there was some improvement in Prime Minister Churchill's general condition. ... The bulletin issued at 7 P. M. (2 P. M. Eastern War Time), said: "The Prime Minister has had a good night. There is some improvement in his general condition."

Think Rail Strike Will Be Averted

CLEVELAND—(AP)—Railway and Government officials expressed belief today a nationwide railroad strike scheduled in two weeks would fail to materialize, while a spokesman for one of the five operating unions involved said a settlement cannot be worked out at a mediation meeting next Monday. ... The meeting was called by the National Mediation Board after operating Brotherhoods said Dec. 30 and the three succeeding days of a nationwide strike. ... "The meeting was called by the National Mediation Board after operating Brotherhoods said Dec. 30 and the three succeeding days of a nationwide strike."

Latest Casualty Total Of U. S. Armed Forces Stands At 131,098

WASHINGTON—(AP)—The latest casualty total of the armed forces of the United States stands at 131,098. ... Secretary of War Stimson said today that from the start of the war to November 29, Army casualties in all theaters totaled 92,594. ... The latest Army total, covering losses up to today, is 131,098, divided as follows: 13,903 killed, 5,868 wounded, 2,406 missing and 421 prisoners. Of the 33,049 Army wounded, Stimson said, 18,011 have been returned to duty or released from hospitals. ... The casualty total for the American elements of the 5th Army fighting in Italy now are 62,410, Stimson said. Of these 20,000 were hospitalized.

Speeding Streamliners Crash Near Lumberton

Over 100 Reported Injured As One Of Nation's Worst Rail Wrecks Occurs In Eastern Carolina LUMBERTON—(AP) Between 50 and 100 persons were killed and more than 100 injured in the wrecks of two crowded streamliner passenger trains along an icebound stretch of the Atlantic Coast Line in southeastern North Carolina early today. Rescuers battled through the Winter's coldest night over snow and ice-coated highways to bring survivors of the double smashup to hospitals at Lumberton and Fayetteville. ... An eye-witness said three coaches of the Florida-bound Tamiame West Coast Champion were derailed and about 40 minutes later the speeding New York-bound Tamiame East Coast Champion derailed through the wreckage scattered over a double track. ... "Coaches were shattered like match boxes," said the witness, Publisher William Wood of the Small House Guide magazine who was en route to Tampa, Fla. ... "A railroad spokesman at Rocky Mount said that about 75 or more persons were killed on the northbound train and at least one killed on the southbound train."

Passenger Describes Scenes At Disaster

FLORENCE, S. C.—(AP)—A passenger on one of the two crash Atlantic Coast Line trains smashed together at Lumberton, S. C. today told how an expected mother with twins leg mangled held up bravely until aid arrived and how a Navy captain did heroic rescue work. ... "The scene was a terrible one," said the passenger, who was on the Tamiame West Coast Champion southbound to Tampa, Fla., which derailed at about 1:10 A. M., said William Wood, publisher of Small House Guide magazine, who was on the wreck. ... "Captain P. W. Allen of the Navy, Washington, D. C., and I took charge of helping the injured and trying to reach the dead. We got blankets from the Pullman cars and hot coffee and whiskey from the diner, then made fires on the snow-covered ground."

Great Yank Raids Made

By EDWARD KENNEDY ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, ALGIERS—(AP)—American heavy bombers, striking with 300 Free Fighters and Liberators directed at airfields in the Athens area, hit telling blows at enemy communications on both the west and east fronts yesterday. ... The new sleekhammer bombers are directed at rail facilities in Austria and at Bolzano and the Trento regions in Northern Italy and, although the bulk of bombers are escorting fighters approximately matched the armada which raided the Athens area. ... "We believe we have an absolutely just case," said Prazer "and we know of no reason why our demands cannot be worked out at Chicago."

Partial List Of Injured

LUMBERTON—(AP)—The injured in the Atlantic Coast Line passenger train wreck here today were listed as follows: ... Mrs. J. L. Stenback, wife of a Marine Corps major at Quantico, Va. ... Mrs. J. L. Stenback, wife of a Marine Corps major at Quantico, Va. ... Mrs. J. L. Stenback, wife of a Marine Corps major at Quantico, Va. ... Mrs. J. L. Stenback, wife of a Marine Corps major at Quantico, Va. ... Mrs. J. L. Stenback, wife of a Marine Corps major at Quantico, Va.

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